



State of North Carolina  
Office of the Governor

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Contact: Renee Hoffman  
Phone: 919/733-5612

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**GOV. EASLEY URGES CAUTION FOR HOLIDAY TRAVEL AS HIGH WINDS, HEAVY  
RAIN HIT THE STATE**

**RALEIGH** – Gov. Mike Easley reminded travelers to take caution on the roads over the Thanksgiving holiday due to heavy rains and strong winds are forecast over the next few days. There is special concern in the eastern part of the state where a storm off the coast has the potential to produce 9-to-13 foot waves and wind gusts up to 55 miles per hour.

“People who are traveling, especially in the eastern third of the state, should pay close attention to weather forecasts,” said Easley. “Rain totals from this storm could be more than six inches and that could result in some flash flooding.”

Weather forecasters predict North Carolina will be mostly cloudy with rain and wind in the east through Thursday. Sustained winds will be in excess of 25 miles per hour in many places along the coast. Some improvement is likely by late Thursday, but substantial clearing will not occur until Friday.

Thanksgiving is the busiest holiday for travel and that can be stressful even in good weather. The following tips will help travelers arrive at their destination safely:

- Buckle up; everyone in the car should wear seatbelts and children should be in the correct child restraint device for their age and weight.
- Never drive after drinking alcohol.
- Allow plenty of time to get to your destination, including frequent rest stops if you are traveling a long distance.
- Avoid crowded roads by starting as early as possible. Traffic picks up on the highways the day before a holiday and continues through the weekend.
- Leave time for construction delays and other congestion if you are driving through any major metropolitan areas.
- Check the weather in your town, your destination, and points along the way.
- Let the people you are visiting know your route and your expected time of arrival.
- Do not speed. The leading cause of collisions in North Carolina is speed. Every 17 minutes, someone is killed or injured on N.C. highways in a speed-related accident.
- Turn on your headlights and leave them on throughout the trip.

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